

where our Nation airts and advances its great debates.

America will miss her devoted son, her stalwart champion, her elder statesman. We will miss one of the very finest gentlemen with whom I have had the honor to serve, but we will not forget him. I consider it our privilege to return some small share of the love JOHN poured out for this country.

It is our honor as Americans to say to the late, great JOHN SIDNEY MCCAIN III what we pray he has already heard from his Creator: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Well done. You fought the good fight. You finished the race. You kept the faith. You never gave up the ship.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Saturday, August 25, 2018, 9 years to the day since the death of his friend Senator Kennedy, our friend and colleague Senator JOHN S. MCCAIN passed away. Knowing his prognosis prepared us for the inevitable, but it has not softened the blow. We all feel a great and inexpressible loss. I know I do. I also feel lucky that I was able to call this great man a friend.

Today, I wish to share a few reflections, unorganized and incomplete though they may be. I suspect I will have more to say about Senator MCCAIN with the benefit of a few days' time.

Senator MCCAIN and I didn't get along very well at first. He was close to my mentor in the Senate, Ted Kennedy, but not so with me. I never served with Senator MCCAIN on any committee, where we get to know other Senators up close.

Before our friendship, my closest brush with him was over a comment he made during a debate on defense policy when he said that Long Island was "regrettably part of the United States." I blasted JOHN's pejorative, which, of course, prompted him to reply from the Senate floor:

I'm sorry there's at least one of my colleagues that can't take a joke. I apologize if I offended him and hope that someday he will have a sense of humor.

Like many, I was a victim of Senator MCCAIN's acerbic wit.

Things began to defrost when we worked together during the Gang of 14 to avoid a change in the Senate rules during the Bush administration, and a real tight and lasting friendship emerged from our collaboration on immigration reform.

We worked in close quarters for nearly a year—hour after hour, day after day, week after week—fine-tuning the only piece of major immigration re-

form to pass this Chamber in decades. We visited the southern border together to assess the gaps in our security up close. We were doing what the Senate was supposed to do—grappling with the biggest challenges, working in a bipartisan way to find solutions, overcoming obstacles that have so long bedeviled immigration reform and continue to stymie progress today. We couldn't have done it without JOHN MCCAIN.

In recent days, many have reflected on his Presidential campaigns and his military service, and rightly so. He was also a natural legislator, able to seek common ground and having a sense of where to go. He knew when to give a little, and he knew when not to. He had deep principles, but he also knew how to craft a product that could actually pass, and the bill did, in the Senate, with large numbers of supporters from both parties. Had we passed immigration reform then, had the House done what the Senate did under John's leadership, we wouldn't be quarreling about immigration now, and our country would be a better, stronger, and more unified place.

We became so close over that year that JOHN MCCAIN started treating my staff like they were his own, and me the same. We spoke so frequently that I knew JOHN MCCAIN's cell number by heart, and I mistakenly repeated it during an interview when a reporter asked me how close we were. They had to edit it out to protect JOHN's privacy.

I can truly say that the times we spent authorizing and passing immigration reform were some of the proudest days in politics for me and the rest of the Gang of 8, in no small part because the success was shared with one great legislative leader, JOHN MCCAIN. He was so many things to so many people, a fierce friend to those who were lucky enough to have earned his friendship—you had to earn his friendship—and a real thorn in the side of those who earned his scorn. Many know that.

He was an unofficial ambassador for the United States, a comfort to our allies, and an unabashed champion for Western values. He was unafraid to take on Presidents. He was unafraid to take on his own party. He was equally parts funny and furious, foulmouthed and statesmanlike. He could put the "temper" in temperament. He was a brave and honest man. He was a patriot. He was all those things throughout his life, usually more than one at once, until his very last days.

Remarking on the character of America, Senator MCCAIN said we live in a "big, boisterous, brawling, intemperate, restless, striving, daring, brave, good and magnificent country." Truer words could not be said about the man himself—big, boisterous, brawling, intemperate, restless, striving, daring, brave, good, and magnificent.

As you go through life, you meet a few truly great people. JOHN MCCAIN was one of them. His dedication to his country and to the men and women

who serve and protect it was unsurpassed. Even in his last weeks, he was calling me every few days to make sure our Defense authorization bill was done and done right—not for him, not for his glory but because he cared about men and women who serve in our Armed Forces so deeply. His life is a story of American heroism personified, but maybe, most of all, he was a truth teller.

Perhaps it is a reflection of our politics that a man can be so well regarded for simply telling the truth as he saw it, or, maybe, recognizing the demands and failings of our politics, it is more of a reflection on the man that four decades of public life could not warp or dim his fidelity to the unvarnished truth.

I will miss him dearly. In the past year of his illness, during moments of doubt about the direction of our country, I found myself thinking about what JOHN MCCAIN would do or what he would say if he were here.

Truth be told, there is nothing I could say that could possibly add or detract from Senator MCCAIN's illustrious career. There is nothing any of us have done that compares to the sacrifice he made in a cellblock half a world away and half a lifetime ago—a sacrifice he made over and over for the country he loved and the principles he advanced.

So that generations will study his example, I have proposed we rename the Russell Senate Office Building, one of only three Senate office buildings, after JOHN MCCAIN. It would be a fitting tribute to a man who considered his service in the Senate—headquartered in the Russell Building, where his beloved Armed Services Committee also resides—the most significant in his distinguished career. The man whose name he would replace, Senator Richard Russell, a towering figure in the Senate of his day, was nonetheless an avowed opponent of civil rights and the architect of the Southern filibuster that long delayed its passage.

It is time that we recognize that as times change, so do our heroes. I will be introducing a resolution with Senator FLAKE to change the name of the Russell Building to the McCain Building. I hope my colleagues will cosponsor and support the resolution. It need not be the only way we honor Senator MCCAIN. We can honor him by trying to carry out the principles he lived by. We can try, as he did, to put country before party. We can try, as he always did, to speak truth to power. We can try, as he summoned us to try, to restore the Senate to its rightful place in our national political life.

Up until the very end, JOHN MCCAIN still believed the Senate was capable of solving our country's greatest challenges. He believed that our arcane rules and procedures, designed to frustrate one-party rule, were an antidote to the organization of our politics. At the very least, he believed in the Senate's ability to make progress, to set

aside, for a moment, our party affiliations, political interests, and personal ambitions in the service of a larger cause, because that is what he did. For all his cynicism, he still believed the Senate could reach that higher calling.

Deep in the middle of his final speech on the Senate floor were these words: "I hope we can again rely on humility, on our need to cooperate, on our dependence on each other, learn how to trust each other again, and by doing so, better serve the people who elected us."

If we are to truly honor the life and the service of JOHN MCCAIN, let us do that. Let us do that.

JOHN MCCAIN put out a few final words. Today I think some of his staffers put them out. I would like to read just two paragraphs of that and then ask unanimous consent that they be put in the RECORD:

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good times or bad times, for the best of anyone else's.

Finally, he concluded with this:

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

My fellow Americans, whom I have gratefully served for sixty years, and especially my fellow Arizonans,

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for the rewarding life that service in uniform and in public office has allowed me to lead. I have tried to serve our country honorably. I have made mistakes, but I hope my love for America will be weighed favorably against them.

I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good or bad times, for the best day of anyone else's.

I owe that satisfaction to the love of my family. No man ever had a more loving wife or children he was prouder of than I am of mine. And I owe it to America.

To be connected to America's causes—liberty, equal justice, respect for the dignity of all people—brings happiness more sublime than life's fleeting pleasures. Our identities and sense of worth are not circumscribed but enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves.

'Fellow Americans'—that association has meant more to me than any other. I lived and died a proud American. We are citizens of the world's greatest republic, a nation of ideals, not blood and soil. We are blessed and are a blessing to humanity when we uphold and advance those ideals at home and in the world. We have helped liberate more people from tyranny and poverty than ever before

in history. We have acquired great wealth and power in the process.

We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe. We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down, when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been.

We are three-hundred-and-twenty-five million opinionated, vociferous individuals. We argue and compete and sometimes even vilify each other in our raucous public debates. But we have always had so much more in common with each other than in disagreement. If only we remember that and give each other the benefit of the presumption that we all love our country we will get through these challenging times. We will come through them stronger than before. We always do.

Ten years ago, I had the privilege to concede defeat in the election for president. I want to end my farewell to you with the heartfelt faith in Americans that I felt so powerfully that evening.

I feel it powerfully still.

Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.

Farewell, fellow Americans. God bless you, and God bless America.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynn A. Johnson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the U.S. Senate, indeed, our entire Nation, is mourning the loss of a great leader, an American patriot, our colleague and friend, Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

I first met JOHN MCCAIN when I was a young staffer in Senator Bill Cohen's office and JOHN was serving as the Navy's liaison officer. As a fellow Senator for the past 21 years, I knew him as a trusted colleague, a courageous legislator, and a close friend.

JOHN was a true American hero who devoted his life to serving his country. Courage and character were the hallmarks of his military service as well as his work in Congress. In the Senate, he was a consequential leader on the most critical issues facing our country. JOHN MCCAIN was one of our Congress's most respected voices for a strong national defense and for good government. His word was as much his bond in Washington as it was to his brothers in arms in Vietnam.

I would like to share with my colleagues a story, I believe, that demonstrates the essential character of JOHN MCCAIN.

In November of 2010, JOHN was part of a congressional delegation on its way to a security conference in Nova Scotia. Bad weather caused their flight to be diverted to Bangor, ME, where I live. I shortly received a phone call to come to the airport, and I went and welcomed JOHN and my colleagues on their unplanned visit.

As it happened, the Troop Greeters of Maine were at the airport at the same time. This legendary group of citizens has greeted more than 1.5 million servicemembers either leaving to go overseas or returning home since 2003; never missing a single flight, even in bad weather or the middle of the night. The Presiding Officer, I believe—who also has served her country so well, Senator ERNST—was one of those who was greeted by the Troop Greeters in Bangor, ME.

Rather than fly out when the weather cleared, JOHN and the others in the delegation agreed to stay and join me with the long line of these patriotic Troop Greeters to await the arrival of the airplanes.

I remember when I told JOHN that there was a plane that would be arriving shortly and then there was another one in a couple of hours, he said: Of course, we will stay.

Well, you can imagine, having gone through the gauntlet of Mainers greeting and welcoming the troops back home, hugging them, cheering them, giving them cell phones, thanking them for their service, that all of a sudden the troops realized they had just shaken hands with JOHN MCCAIN; the legendary JOHN MCCAIN, who was so popular with servicemembers. I saw them literally do a double take when the first group went by, shook his hand, and then turned around and said to each other: Wasn't that JOHN MCCAIN who just shook our hands?

They then came back and of course posed for pictures and chatted with him and held up the rest of the line, who were very eager to see JOHN.

I will never forget how thrilled these troops were to be greeted, when they